Get in Gear for Bike-to-Work Day 2005
by APG Pollution Prevention staff

The third annual Bike-to-Work Day on May 6, 2005, kicks off Clean Commute Month, a regional effort to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion by encouraging biking, carpooling, telecommuting, riding mass transit, or taking an approved day off during May. The event takes place in the parking lot at the Harford County Administrative Offices, 220 South Main Street, Bel Air, MD.

Aberdeen Proving Ground, the largest Harford County employer, encourages civilian and military employees to participate in the event sponsored by the Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning and supported by the Harford County Rideshare Program and the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board. Similar events will take place in Baltimore City, Towson, and Annapolis.

During May, the beginning of the ozone season, ground-level ozone begins to get worse because increased and more intense sunlight speeds the conversion of nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds (vehicle emissions that cause smog) to ozone. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that pollution-forming vehicle emissions could be cut by as much as 5 percent if just 2.5 percent of car trips were made by bike instead. Commuting by bicycle produces zero pollution.

On the morning of May 6, cyclists are invited to stop by the parking lot for light refreshments and a chance to chat with other commuter cyclists before their commutes between 7 and 9. Cyclists can sign up for prize drawings and learn about Harford County's Bike Buddy Club.

Entertainment for the Bel Air event will be provided by Twofold, a band composed of Harford County government workers. Members of the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Department will also be there to give blood pressure screenings to all participants. Every registered participant will receive a free Bike-to-Work Celebration T-shirt. For more information about Bike to Work Day, visit http://harfordcountymd.gov/commuter and http://cleancommute.com on the world wide web